

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 02554 231618Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 HA-05 EB-08
COME-00 AID-05 L-03 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /076 W
-----089568 240134Z /63

R 231531Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8154
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2554

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, ES
SUBJECT: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN MATSUMOTO KIDNAPPING

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2521

1. EVENING MAY 22, AMBASSADOR AND POLOFF MET WITH JAPANESE FIRST SECRETARIES NISHIMURA AND UENO (FROM WASHINGTON) AND KURATA (EL SALVADOR) AT THEIR REQUEST IN THE U.S. EMBASSY. KIDNAPPING OF MATSUNOTO HAD TAKEN ALL-TOO-FAMILIAR TURN. WHILE FAMILY AND COMPANY OF MATSUMOTO HAD BEEN ATTEMPTING TO MAKE CONTACT WITH FARN (SEE REFTEL), KAURATA HAD RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL AT JAPANESE EMBASSY LATE AFTERNOON MAY 22 FROM ALLEGED SERGEANT OF NATIONAL GUARD (ND). SGT. STATED THAT KDESPIE FARN DEMANDS AND PUBLICITY GIVEN MATSUMOTO KIDNAPPING, ACTION HAD ACTUALLY BEEN CARRIED OUT BY ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL GUARD. SGT. STATED THAT THERE WAS DIVISION IN NG ABOUT THIS TYPE ACTION AND HE AND 25 OTHERS (INCLUDING ONE COLONEL) WERE OPPOSED TO MATSUMOTO KIDNAPPING AND WANTED TO SEE HIM RETURNED SAFELY. FURNISHED DETAILED INFORMATION AS TO METHOD OF KIDNAPPING, PLACE THAT MATSUMOTO HAD BEEN HELD, AND FACT THAT HE WAS MOVED MAY 22 TO NG HEADQUARTERS IN SANTA TECLA (JUST NORTH OF SAN SALVADOR). STORY WAS QERY SIMILAR TO RECENT UNCONFIRMED VERSIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 02554 231618Z

OF NG INVOLVEMENT AND METHODS USED IN RICHARDSON (U.S.) AND BORGONOVO KIDNAPPINGS AND SUBSEQUENT ASSASSINATION. SGT. OFFERED TO MEET WITH JAPANESE OFFICIALS AND PROVIDE COMPLETE INFORMATION IN RETURN FOR PROTECTION (I.E., VISA) AND MONETARY CONSIDERATION. SGT. STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT GENERAL ALVARENGA AND OTHER TOP OFFICIALS OF NG AND GOES SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR KIDNAPPING AND WERE

DELIBERATELY TRYING TO PLACE BLAME ON FARN AND TERRORIST GROUPS. HE AND HIS GROUP WERE OPPOSED TO THIS AND WANTED TO HELP MATSUMOTO IN RETURN FOR PROTECTION AND MONEY. SGT. AGREED TO COME TO JAPANESE EMBASSY MAY 23 (AFTER SUGGESTING OTHER MEETING PLACES) TO PROVIDE MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION.

2. AMB AND POLOFF TOLD JAPANESE THAT SIMILAR ACCUSATIONS AGAINST NG AND GOES HAD BEEN MADE IN PRACTICALLY ALL PREVIOUS KIDNAPPINGS--USUALLY OFFERING INFORMATION IN RETURN FOR VISA TO U.S. AND MONEY, WITH ONE DIFFERENCE BEING SUCH INFORMATION USUALLY SURFACING AFTER INDIVIDUAL EITHER RETURNED OR KILLED. SUGGESTED THAT FAMILY AND COMPANY OF MATSUMOTO CONTINUE ATTEMPTS TO NEGOTIATE WITH FARN WHILE JAPANESE EMBASSY PURSUE CONTACT WITH NG SGT. POINTED OUT THAT INFORMATION CONCERNING NG INVOLVEMENT OF LITTLE OR NO VALUE SINCE WOULD NOT HELP IN SAFE RETURN OF MATSUMOTO. IF, HOWEVER, NG SGT. AND FRIENDS COULD DELIVER MATSUMOTO TO JAPANESE EMBASSY, THEN THEIR SAFETY AND MONETARY REWARD SHOULD BE GRANTED. JAPANESE AGREED THAT CONTACT WITH BOTH PARTIES SHOULD BE MAINTAINED, WITH PRIMARY OBJECTIVE SAFE RETURN OF MATSUMOTO. AMB POINTED OUT POSSIBILITY OF PHONE TAPS, SURVEILLANCE OF JAPANESE EMBASSY AND OTHER PROBLEMS, IF NG AND GOES IN FACT INVOLVED. JAPANESE AGAIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE AND OFFERED TO KEEP EMBASSY FULLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 02554 231618Z

INFORMED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS.

3. COMMENT. AS POINTED OUT TO JAPANESE, ALL CURRENT EMBASSY INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT KIDNAPPING WAS IN FACT CARRIED OUT BY FARN, WITH POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE OF OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS. ALLEGATION OF NG INVOLVEMENT IN KIDNAPPING SIMILAR TO MAY PREVIOUS, BUT ALWAYS UNVERIFIED AND OFTEN SELF-SERVING, OPPORTUNISTIC STATEMENTS. HOWEVER, DETAILS HAVE SOME SUBSTANCE AND CANNOT BE IGNORED. NEW FACTOR IN KIDNAPPING, EVEN IF SUSPECT, FURTHER COMPLICATES MATSUMOTO CASE AND, IF TRUE, WOULD LEAD TO INTERNATIONAL SCANDAL AND POSSIBLE FALL OF ROMERO GOVERNMENT.

DEVINE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, BUSINESSMEN, PROGRESS REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANSAA02554
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780218-0045
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780529/aaaaaxy.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 238c4698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SAN SALVADOR 2521
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2602347
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN MATSUMOTO KIDNAPPING
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, ES, JA, (MATSUMOTO, FUJIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/238c4698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014